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1966 SEP 27 AM 8 26

SUBJECT: CONSTITUENT ASSEMBLY: CONVERSATIONS WITH TWO MEMBERS OF "RENAISSANCE OF SOUTH," FROM GO CONG, AND FROM BA XUYEN

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REF: A. EMBEL 6279, SEPT 18, 1966
B. EMBTEL 6949, SEPT 26, 1966

1. IN A CONVERSATION WITH TWO EMBOFFS SEPT 26, , A DEFEATED CA CANDIDATE FROM BA XUYEN SAID THAT HE WOULD PROTEST DAN'S ELECTION BEFORE THE "CREDINTIALS COMMITTEE" OF THE CA WHICH HE EXPECTS TO BE FORMED SEPT 27, DAY CA FORMALLY OPENS. SAID HIS PROTEST WOULD BE SUPPORTED BY ALL

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SIX DEPUTIES WHO ARE ALSO MEMBERS OF THE MOVEMENT FOR THE RENAISSANCE OF THE SOUTH (REF A). THIS ALSO THE CASE WITH PROTEST TO BE FILED AGAINST ELECTION LT. COL. NGUYEN VAN BE, BAC LIEU, (REF B), BY DEFEATED CANDIDATE PHAN THAN NGUYEN. NGUYEN, ALSO MEMBER OF RENAISSANCE OF SOUTH, FUNISHED THIRD IN BAO LIEU. BOTH AND NGUYEN CLAIM WINNERS USED THEIR MILITARY POSITIONS TO UNFAIR ADVANTAGE, AND BAY SAYS HE KNOWS (BUT HAS NO PROOF) OF BALLOT STUFFING BY CAPT. DAN AS WELL. SEEMS CONFIDENT HE HAS GOOD CASE, AND SAYS THAT SPECIAL COMMISSION FOR ADMINISTRATIVE AFFAIRS HAS ALREADY RULED IN HIS FAVOR. CLAIMS HIS PROBLEM IS WITH PROVINCE OFFICIALS, WHO COMMITTED TO CAPT. DAN AS THEY IMPROPERLY ALLOWED HIM TO RUN BUT ALSO DO NOT WISH TO FACE COMPLICATION OF ARRANGING FOR NEW ELECTION. (COMMENT: ACTUALLY, BA XUYEN PROVINCE OFFICIALS WERE OPPOSED TO ELECTION OF CAPT. DAN BUT WERE AFRAID TO DISQUALIFY HIM BACAUSE OF-

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HIS POPULARITY WITHIN THE PROVINCE.) ALSO CLAIMS THAT MINISTER FOR REVOLUTIONARY DEVELOPMENT MAJ. GEN. NGUYEN DUC THANG SUPPORTED CAPT. DAM.

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2. SAYS HE THINKS IF HIS PROTEST IS UPHELD HE WILL "EASILY WIN" NEW ELECTION. EXPECTS CA TO FORM "CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE" AS FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS. AFTER PRESENTING HIS CASE TO COMMITTEE IN PERSON, INTENDS TO VISIT IV CORPS COMMANDER GENERAL QUANG AND REQUEST SUPPORT. HE WILL LEAVE HANDLING OF PROTEST IN SAIGON TO SIX RENAISSANCE DEPUTIES.

3. SAYS LEADER OF RENAISSANCE DEPUTIES GROUP IS SAIGON DEPUTY RENAISSANCE CLAIMS ONLY SIX MEMBERS IN ASSEMBLY BUT WILL SEEK AND FIND SUPPORT, ACCORDING TO BAY, AMONG OTHER INTELLECTUALS AND TEACHERS WHATEVER REGION OR GROUP THEY REPRESENT. LISTED BY AS SUMPATHIZERS IN THIS RESPECT ARE

THINKS THAT SOUTHERNERS OUTSIDE OF HOA HAO AND RENAISSANCE GROUPS REMAIN UNORGANIZED.

4. EXPRESSED MODERATE VIEWS ON ROLE OF MILITARY IN FUTURE VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENT. THEY PREFER PRESIDENTIAL SYSTEM. SAYS IT NOT IMPORTANT IF FUTURE PRESIDENT A MILITARY MAN IF HE IS CAPABLE AND HAS TRUST OF PEOPLE. HE THINKS MILITARY SHOULD HAVE ROLE IN SEEING THAT CONSTITUTION IS NOT VIOLATED. ALSO BELIEVES GOVERNMENT IN SAIGON TOO REMOVED FROM PEOPLE AND HE INTENDS PROPOSE THAT ALL DEPUTIES BE SENT BACK TO COUNTRYSIDE TO TEACH THE PEOPLE ABOUT THE CONSTITUTION ONCE IT IS FINISHED. SAYS HE THINKS PHAN KHAC SUU MOST SUITABLE FOR POST OF CA CHAIRMAN.

5. COMMENT: GIVE THE IMPRESSION THAT HOA HAO AND RENAISSANCE ARE IN COMPETITION FOR LEADERSHIP SOUTHERNERS IN ASSEMBLY. WHILE THESE TWO GROUPS SEEM TO HAVE HEADSTART IN ORGANIZATION, IT IS PROBABLE THAT OTHER ELEMENTS ARE ALSO AT WORK, INCLUDING MOST PROMINENTLY IV COMMANDER GENERAL QUANG AND DEPUTIES PHAN KHAC SUU AND TRAN VAN VAN. IT WILL PROBABLY BE SEVERAL DAYS AFTER CONVENTION OF CA BEFORE QUESTION OF LEADERSHIP WITHIN SOUTHERN BLOC IS SORTED OUT. LODGE
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